

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 01555 212113Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 NSC-05 PM-03 DODE-00  
L-01 H-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 PA-01 ICA-01 TRSE-00  
HA-02 IO-06 /052 W  
-----002368 212209Z /64

P 212034Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8142

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1555

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, HA  
SUBJ: COALITION FOR A NEW FOREIGN AND MILITARY POLICY'S  
CRITIQUE OF STATE DEPARTMENT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS

REF: A. DE SANTILLANA/IRONS LTR 4/13/78  
B. DE SANTILLANA/MEDADE TELECON 4/19/78

1. EMBASSY IS IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH HEWITT/LISTER MEMO OF  
APRIL 7 TRANSMITTED BY REF A. IF THERE IS A NEED TO RESPOND  
TO THE CRITIQUE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN  
HAITI IN GREATER DETAIL, THE FOLLOWING POINTS COULD BE ADDED.

2. CRIMINAL TRIALS. THE CRIMINAL TRIALS REFERRED TO IN THE  
DEPARTMENT'S REPORT ARE THE FORMAL CRIMINAL ASSIZE WITH JURY  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PORT AU PRINCE WHICH ARE USED ONLY FOR  
SERIOUS CRIMES. IN THE 1977 SESSION, THREE PERSONS ACCUSED  
OF MURDER WERE ACQUITTED AND TWO WERE CONVICTED. A TRIAL OF  
THREE PERSONS ACCUSED OF FORGERY WAS DEFERRED TO 1978 SESSION  
AND ONE PERSON ACCUSED OF TRAFFICKING IN MARIJUANA WAS CON-  
VICTED. IN THE 1975 "STAMP SCANDAL" TRIAL, SEVERAL PERSONS  
WERE TRIED AND CONVICTED OF CORRUPTION.

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3. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. IT IS DEMONSTRABLY UNTRUE THAT ALL  
HAITIANS MUST REGISTER WITH THE LOCAL "CHIEF OF SECTION"  
WHEN THEY TRAVEL FROM ONE TOWN TO ANOTHER. A "CHIEF OF  
SECTION" IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING WHO IS IN HIS DISTRICT,  
HOWEVER, AND A VISITOR IS EXPECTED TO GIVE AN EXPLANATION  
OF HIS PRESENCE IF ASKED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY. MILITARY CHECK-  
POINTS DO EXIST BUT ARE RELATIVELY INFREQUENT, ESPECIALLY ON

HEAVILY TRAVELLED ROADS--THERE ARE ONLY THREE ACTIVE CHECK-  
POINTS ON THE 160 MILE MAIN ROAD FROM PORT AU PRINCE  
TO CAP HAITIEN. MOREOVER, THESE CHECKPOINTS ARE DIRECTED  
PRIMARILY AT FOREIGNERS' TRAVEL. IN SUM, HAITIANS TRAVEL  
WITHIN THE COUNTRY AS THEY PLEASE. THEY DO NOT NEED ANY

SPECIAL AUTHORIZATIONS AND "REGISTRATION" REQUIREMENTS ARE

FAR LESS THOROUGH THAN THOSE OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES REQUIRING  
ALL HOTEL GUESTS TO BE REPORTED TO THE LOCAL POLICE.  
JONES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** SHUM, HA, STATE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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